

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of continuous hydrolysis of organic material, ~~wherein the method comprises~~ comprising the following steps of:

- a) heating a sludge in a heat exchanger, wherein the sludge contains ~~containing~~ the organic material with a low content of abrasive components and a dry solids content of 1-20%, to a temperature of approximately 100°C;₁
- b) mixing the sludge with steam at a pressure of 1-4 bars in a first mixing unit ~~bar a;~~₁
- e) leading the sludge/steam mixture to a preheating tank (4);₁
- d) increasing the pressure of the sludge/steam mixture from 3 to 10 bars in a second mixing unit ~~bar a;~~₁
- e) leading the sludge/steam mixture to a reactor (7);₁
- e) ~~depressurising~~ depressurizing the sludge/steam mixture to 1-4 bars ~~bar a~~ in a ~~depressurising~~ depressurizing tank (10);₁ and
- f) separating sludge and steam, ~~and possibly~~
- g) ~~cooling the sludge further.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A The method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the sludge ~~in step a) from the heating step~~ is heated through heat exchange in the heat exchanger with the sludge from ~~step f) the separating step.~~

3. (Currently Amended) A The method in accordance with ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1 or 2, wherein the residence time for the sludge/steam mixture in the reactor (7) is from 5 to 60 minutes at a temperature of 130 to 180°C.

4. (Currently Amended) A The method in accordance with ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1, wherein the ~~depressurisation~~ depressurizing of the sludge/steam mixture in the ~~depressurization~~ depressurizing tank is carried out by means of one or more nozzles (9).

5. (Currently Amended) A The method in accordance with ~~one or more of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1, wherein steam from the ~~depressurisation~~ depressurizing tank (10) is mixed with the sludge in ~~step b) the mixing step.~~

6-8. (Canceled)

9. (New) The method in accordance with Claim 1, further comprising the step of cooling the sludge.